Sunday, June 10th 1928.

Dearest Folks:

The Presbyterian came this week, but told nothing more than we heard from Fox, and not hald so interestingly, so after I tore out the excellent S.S.lesson, which I always do, to save it; I threw the thing away.

I hope Fox feels quite himself again. There isno great news hereabouts just now. Three days of solid rain the fore part of the week, and somewhat colder now at the end. They took our heat meter out yesterday for the summer, and of course, to-day it is rather cold, but sunny, and we don't mind it much.

Had a letter from Fenton of Syracuse asking to exchange pulpits one Sunday this summer. He did this last summer. I don't get his plan. Does he spend his vacation exchanging with other people? I suggested the 12th of August which was about the only dat he named which looked possible.

I did not go over to Toronto as planned. Dr.Sclater took sick with grippe and was forced to give up a trip to the Coast which he had planned for the whole month of June. This threw him off his schedule, and so when he got well enough, he had to go on at home. I did not care much, as to-day would not have been altogether convenient at that. Next Sunday is Children's Day, and I suppose we will pass through that again.

I am preaching for Bergen the Congregational man to-night. His brother is in Phila. He never speaks of him.

This Tuesday I hope to get on the line and see what the GOP are going to do. I certainly enjoyed the Democrats four years ago, and think the radio will be fine for these conventions. It will have quite something to do with the result too. Millions of people will listen in and get most all that goes on. I think the radio queered the Democrats last time as much as anything. Newspaper accounts can be colored up to suit the taste, but these radio accounts are just "as is". I wish they would put Congress on the air. That would soon bring them around to be quite a useful part of the government.

I doubt if I can make Syracuse on July whenever it was. About the middle wasn't it? Would the South Church like the change? The U.P.in Pittsburg were sure sore that time you sent me in your place to preach for them.

One of our boys just back from college there, said Dr. s wanted to be remembered to me.

Have not had any delegation from Bimmington yet.

Loads of love, All well,

DENTON MASSEY
915 KING STREET WEST
TORONTO

June
Twelfth,
1 9 2 8.

Rev. Stewart M. Robinson,
LOCKPORT, N. Y.

Dear Stewart:

It was with great disappointment that we all learned of the postponement of your visit last week-end. You would be very pleased, I am sure, at the number of inquiries that came to the house both directly and indirectly as to the whereabouts of one Stewart M. Robinson on June 10th. We had all looked forward very much to having you here that day, and Dr. Sclater seemed to feel very badly at having to call it off. I am sure you will understand.

How is Ann? You are such a prolific correspondent that one never hears the news, so we will have to presume that all is well with the Robinsons.

You will be interested to know, I think, Stewart, that W. A. gave me the thrill of my life last Sunday evening when in his forced absence -- due to illness -- he asked me to take not only the sermon but the entire Service at his church, Yorkminster. I thought it was an amazing thing for him to do, and it certainly proved to be an inspiration that I shall never forget -- to conduct the Service for him in that glorious church and to a capacity audience. Imagine me, the hard-boiled engineer, toddling back and forth between lectern and pulpit, shuffling collection plates around the

DENTON MASSEY
915 KING STREET WEST
TORONTO



altar, all with a super-pious expression, trying to forget the recurring thoughts of that riotous Sunday evening when our rowdy friends from Lockport and Toronto almost broke up the house. But seriously, it was a wonderful experience, one which made me, of course, exceptionally happy.

How goes the Sunday School? I do wish you would write once in a while and tell me something of what goes on in your town, as you know how interested I am in it.

In the meantime, Stewart, please give my best to Ann and remember us to all the rest of your nice people over there. We are hoping to see you both soon.

As ever,

Sincerely,

Denton

DM/LP

P.S.--- I know you will both be interested to know that Esther is feeling extremely well and that things are going splendidly.

June 15th,1928.

Mr.Denton Massey,
915 King Street,
Toronto,Ontario.

My dear Denton:

I enjoyed your good letter of June 12th very much. I was sorry not to have the pleasure of running over on the 10th of June to preach in Old St.Andrews Church but I understood perfectly when Dr.Sclater wrote me that owing to his illness he was unable to make the trip which he had planned to the Pacific Coast. It was very nice of him to even think of having me over and I appreciated the compliment very much. He was good enough to suggest that at some future time I might come over. I missed just as much or even more the chance of being with you both over the week-end. My wife Ann told me I should have written you when Dr. Sclater wrote me. I am afraid I will have to plead guilty being a poor correspondent.

I was much edified to receive the notice you sent to your class members regarding the evening service at Yorkminster Church. That was certainly fine and I would have enjoyed being there to hear you hold forth.

Looks now as though our birthday party would not be far away. I am happy to hear that Esther is feeling fine. We shall look forward with greatest interest to your birthday party. It is only fair to keep the population nearly even as we can on both side of the border.

Last night we had a very lovely wedding in our church when Mr.Symes daughter was married. She was a beautiful bride and everything went off in splendid shape. Mr.& Mrs.Rogers are off to-day to his college commencement and then they expect to go out to the Rotary Convention for a few days. The new building is just about ready for its final painting and polishing.

We all send our very best to you and all your good family. I hope a business trip will bring you over this way. Never mind the business,come anyway.

Please give my very kindest regards to Dr.Sclater and Miss Cameron when next you see them. I trust they are both now in good health again.

There were two books I looked at in your library when I was there that struck me,I think one was by a man named Streeter called "Reality" and another by MacIntosh if I remember correctly on some theological subject. I wonder if those books are sold in Toronto could you have them send me over two copies and send the bill with the book.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Form 1204

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MINNEAPOLIS MINN JUNE 20 1928

REV & MRS STEWART M ROBINSON

50 SPRUCE ST LOCKPORT NY

LEN FRANCES ELLA AND ROTARY INTERNATIONAL JOIN US IN CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MOST RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENT KEEP ON AND YOU WILL MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF GOOD LUCK AND GOOD WISHES TO YOU ALL HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME SORRY FAMILY AFFAIRS PREVENTED YOUR BEING HERE LOVE FROM US BOTH

RUTH & BERT

713A

August 5th 1928.

Dear Bert:

Well, you good old thing, how is your golf game. From the post cards, I figure you must be losing a lot of golf balls in the ocean. It is sultry and punk here as to weather. Everything was damp and gooey this morning at church. The painters are hard at it in the chapel. Nice job too.

GARDNER JACKSON WENT OVER OUR PROPOSITION THIS A.M. AND SAID HE WOULD STAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EQUIPMENT FOR THE TWO ROOMS, BEGINNERS AND PRIMARY. How about that?

That will give us A-1 stuff. He named the amount, and we simply go ahead and buy the stuff and send the endorsed bills to him. Stinson was pleased.

Glad I stuck around another Sunday.

Expect to take Stewart and Anne down to Delhi to-morrow preach in Syracuse next Sunday and back here the 13th. Stinson goes away for a couple of weeks next Sat.Nighty.

Classes are all set to do their stuff. Men have their piano already I understand.

No great amount of news. Your yard looks fine. Porch seems to have been painted. Family is fine.

"Dirt" is scarse I guess Maude Van Horn is on her vacation.

Received Grammer's moving picture lecture. Fine, we send thanks. Our best to all, from all.

Yours,

August 18th 1928.

Dear Bert & Co.

Welcome home again. Sorry I will not see you all at once. But I plan to drive Anne and the two babies down to Delhi on Monday to join the other two kids who are rusticating their for the month.

Personally I expect to be back to preach on the 26th and will probably drift away for the next some days. We shut up shop entirely on Sep 2nd so I will preach for Father that day and bring the gang back that following week to get lined up for the school etc.

Everything seems to be coming down at the church. Mrs. Brooks and Mrs.Woodward have the dope on their job, namely to spend wisely for chairs etc the five hundred of Gardner Jackson leaving enough to get window durtains. Wallace Whitmore has taken up the chair question with Neil Prudden and samples or pictures and prices will be forthcoming anon. They have secured a piano.

Charlie has some sample window stuff bound hither. I told him to get some ideas, with the thought that we would make better time to just tell the class representatives the type and style the Building Com. think best, and let the classes pay for it pro rata.

Chapel is finished, and I understand that Harold Stinson ordered those up-stairs rooms done as you wished. He is away just now. It looks to me as if we could have the grand doings on Sep 16th. The women have been in the kitchen, and that is ready for action now, I think. It looks so at any rate.

Painter told me he thought they would be out at the end of next week. That leaves only linoleum (which Williams Bros. are ready to slap right down) and the light fictures, which I believe are only waiting for the painters to leave before they go in. The passageway behind the church has been all dolled up and it all looks great.

Chairs for week-day dept. ought to arrive any day. Painters will do over our present baby chairs any color desired. The only gap now that I think of is chairs for the women's classes. Here again, I believe we would do best to let the Building Com. pick out what best suits and pro rate the cost to the classes. All the odds and ends like pictures and such will flock in and we don't need them to start with.

C.A. wants to go on and spend some more money fixing up our new young peoples' dept. Don't know just how. He also said to me that we ought to issue bonds for what we owe, add to it enought to do some other things he says ought to be done, and sell these bonds to the people and 6% just like any business, or city. That's for our business brains to pass on.

Now my hope and prayer is to "give her the works". If that beautiful lay-out does not bubble over with Gospel, prayer, study, Christian fellowship and draw souls and hearts to the Lord, I will be heart broken.

I think all church boards are sympathetic to idea of synchronizing the monthly meetings to same night and at the church. This I want to begin in Sept. Then I want to put the Deacons to the big task of being the ways and means committee for the church. They are crazy for a real job in the church life.

Hope to see you all at the week-end.

Yours as ever

5

DENTON MASSEY
915 KING STREET WEST
TORONTO

June
Twentieth,
1 9 2 8.

Rev. Stewart M. Robinson,
50 Spruce St.,
LOCKPORT, N. Y.

Dear Stewart:

Many congratulations to you both in your latest successful effort. I am sure that you must be exceedingly proud of your family, even more so with this recent substantial addition. With your usual length of expression, you conveyed full details in your telegram. What I mean to say is that you said not a thing as to how Ann was or any other such details. We all trust that everything went exceedingly well and that both patients are doing the best possible.

It so happened that your letter and wire arrived at the same moment. So much news suddenly from the Robinsons was most unexpected and at the same time most enjoyable. I was interested to note Miss Symes' wedding. You state she was a very beautiful bride. I am sure she would be. The books you spoke of are "Reality" by Streeter and "The Reasonableness of Christianity" by MacIntosh. These two I am having forwarded to you and I wish you would accept them with my congratulations for the new son. I think the titles are singularly appropriate under the circumstances.

Please give my best to Ann and many congratulations as well. Rest assured, Stewart, that I only hope the example you have set will be accomplished by others who are endeavouring to do as well.

All the best.

Yours sincerely,

Denton

June 25th 1928.

Mr.Denton Massey,
915 King Street West
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Denton:

Many, many thanks for the books. They are greatly appreciated. They arrived this morning, apparently coming from New York. If the young man in whose honor they are sent is wakeful, I believe they will put him to sleep. However his old man will not go to sleep over them. I react to books very much as the old toper does to liquor, can't pass a book-store any more easily than he can a saloon. Would probably land the family in the poor house, or starve them if I bought every book that struck my fancy.

Alexander Proudfit Robinson, born June 16th 1928, at the Lockport City Hosp. weight 8 pounds and 10 ounces, length over all some twenty inches, health splendid, yell strong, hair rather lightish, eyes blue, in short, standard equipment for our family. Like a well known auto firm "we do not change our model, but make improvments from time to time". The name is certainly long and double action, and once dragged upon this baby's great great grandfather.

Anne is doing splendidly. Last Thursday evening I went down to New York to marry my sister-in-law out on Long Island. Back Saturday morning, bringing Anne's mother, who helps a lot in the home circle just at the present writing. We have a little French maid now who speaks no English, but she is a dandy workman, and we are getting along splendidly all around. Stewart blossomed out yesterday morning witha few lovely chicken-poxes and is being quiet to-day, but there seems to be nothing much to it, All his cronies have had it, and we have been expecting it these three weeks.

We shall look forward with the greatest interest to the coming birthday party in your family circle and be happy to hear of another member of your fine family. These youngstersare a great institution. Please give my kindest regards to such clergy friends as I have had the pleasure of meeting. Anne and I both send our love and best wishes to your own circle. Thank you again for the books.

Yours sincerely,

DENTON MASSEY
915 KING STREET WEST
TORONTO

June
Twenty-third,
1 9 2 8.

Rev. Stewart M. Robinson,
50 Spruce St.,
LOCKPORT, N. Y.

Dear Stewart:

I am enclosing a copy of the near-sermon that I let out at our friend W. A.'s church on the 10th. I am sending it to you not because I think it is good -- far from it -- but because I would like awfully to have you read over, if you would be good enough, and tell me what you think of it. Be perfectly frank, for it is criticism I want. Also please remember as you read it that it was taken down as it was given, and of course it was given extempore.

How goes the new family? I trust Ann and the youngster are both doing awfully well. You must be an exceedingly proud parent.

As always, with the best from us all here,

Sincerely,

Encl.

Denton (per R.P.)

P.S. As I am leaving town in a few minutes for the weekend, I have asked Miss Peter to sign this for me.

July 8th 1928.

Mr.Denton Massey,
915 King Street West,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Denton:

Your letter was much enjoyed and also the copy of the sermon. I read it through carefully, thought it very good. I counted the words just to see what length it would be as taken down, and found it was just about what I generally write out. I very seldom have a manuscript with me in the pulpit, and when I do, more often than not, never look at it. It is sometimes a source of confidence. I heard of a preacher once who always was careful to put a ten dollar bill in his vest pocket when he preached. I must say, I can't get the connection, but I suppose that gave him a sense of confidence. Some people, you know, carry a rabbit's foot or a four leaf clover.

You have a lot of natural ability, for which of course you get no credit, because it came to you from a long line of able and consecrated folks before you. But you make use of your abilities, which is much to your credit, because you could avoid it. Sitting in the pew as a rule, when you preach there is a measure of interest for your audience quite apart from the content of your sermon. It is a great thing to be able to get up and talk about worth while things. Geo.Wharton Pepper of Phila. gave a very interesting series of lectures at Yale on preaching, which he called 'A Voice from the Crowd'. Probably you have read it, if not, you should.

All sermons lose something when they are reduced to cold print. A stenographic report of a spoken sermon loseseven more, because the style of speaking words is necessarily different from the style of writing words, even when the subject is the same. A man can preach a sermon, and write it, either before or after preaching it. His written work will differ from his spoken work. I suppose it is true to say that a very beautiful piece of writing seems a bit stilted when it is spoken verbatim. Sentence structure, paragraph etc. are apt to languish when we speak. I had a stenographer reproach me once for beginning so many paragraphs with the word 'now". "Now" comes very handily in speech. In carrying forward a line of thought, leading people step by step, it helps, but in writing where people have punctuation, space, line and page to help them, those forward thrusting devices are superfluous.

Most authorities that I have seen advise writing for the speaker. It helps one find a wider choice of words, discourages verbosity, and teaches one to have a 'plot' in his sermon.

It was very good of you to let me a copy of the sermon. I know how much you enjoyed it, and feel that the people who were there did too. Knowing you I can get almost what the listeners got when you spoke. I catch the spirit of genial humor, which helps wonderfully, the sincerity which helps still more, and the sense of proportion which somehow fits the thing into the other parts of the whole. I don't think Mr.Cameron made any mistake when he flagged you to pinch hit for him. By the way, I hope he is all right again. Remember me please.

Our family is now re-united in the home, quite a gang we are too. Everyone is fine. The older kids have been having the mildest kind of chicken-pox. I have only planned to be away for the first two Sundays of August. The finishing touches are being put on our new building, and there remains the process of settling. One job which will have to mine, and mine alone, I guess, will be the transfer of my books to the new study. This will not be bad fun at that. They have simply overrun the little study up here atthe house. The only wish I expressed was for plenty of shelf space in the new place and they gave 250 feet of it, which is plenty, I guess. Though, sometimes I have my doubts.

I hope everything is going along in wonderful style with you. Summer is passing, and you are getting on to your large day. I guess we are all to hope it is a nice boy. Well, howsoever, you will be happy as can be. Little sister was rather hunching for another girl in our family, feeling, I presume, that woman's votes were getting rather in the minority. But I think our two can hold the four men. That is only about even anyway.

Give our best all around. It is great to hear from you. I am enjoying the books you sent very much indeed. I liked Streeter tremendously. Have read other writings of his before, but liked this the best. It would be great to see you.

Yours as ever,